

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BELFAS 00080 181525 Z

51

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EURE-00 NEA-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 OMB-01 GAC-01

SY-10 SCA-01 EB-11 FAA-00 IO-12 CAB-09 USSS-00 OPR-02

AID-20 M-03 A-01 RSR-01 /162 W
----- 101628

O R 181500 Z MAY 73

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 508

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 080

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINS, UK (N. I.)

SUBJECT: PROVOS THREATEN BELFAST AIRPORT

1. ONE BOMB EXPLODED, AND ANOTHER WAS DEFUSED, AT BELFAST' S MAIN AIRPORT AT ALDERGROVE YESTERDAY. PROVISIONAL IRA STATEMENT SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED TOOK RESPONSIBILITY FOR BOMBS AND ADDED FOLLOWING: " WE GIVE NOTICE THAT BELFAST AIRPORT IS NOW CONSIDERED A LEGITIMATE TARGET AND SPECIAL ACTIVE SERVICE UNITS HAVE BEEN GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS TO DESTROY THE AIRPORT AND ALL PLANES. WE WILL BE RUTHLESS IN OUR EFFORTS, TO PREVENT THEM OPERATING AT THIS AIRPORT. PASSENGERS INTENDING TO TRAVEL VIA BELFAST AIRPORT CAN ACCEPT THIS AS THE ONLY WARNING."

2. SECURITY MEASURES AT ALDERGROVE HAVE BEEN STRENGTHENED, AND AIRPORT OFFICIALS, AIRLINE COMPANIES, PILOTS' REPRESENTATIVES AND SECURITY AUTHORITIES ARE DISCUSSING MATTER.

3. EARLY PILOT SPOKESMAN TOOK HARD LINE THAT THREAT WOULD BE UNCLASSIFIED

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TREATED CONTEMPT. IT MUST, HOWEVER, BE REMEMBERED THAT MANY PLOTS HAVE LONG SINCE REFUSED TO OPERATE ON BELFAST RUN, AND NO CREWS OR PLANES NOW OVERNIGHT AT BELFAST. ONE LINE, BRITISH CALEDONIAN, HAS TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED FLIGHTS TO BELFAST.

4. GIVEN IMPORTANCE TO LOCAL ECONOMY OF AIRPORT, IT IS NO WONDER THAT PROVOS, WHOSE AIM CONTINUES TO BE TO PULL ECONOMY DOWN, THAT MAJOR TRANSPORTATION INSTALLATIONS SHOULD BE THREATENED. FOR SAME REASON, HOWEVER, AUTHORITIES WILL TAKE EVERY POSSIBLE STEP TO INSURE SAFE USE OF THOSE INSTALLATIONS. CONSULATE GENERAL WILL KEEP MATTER UNDER CLOSEST CONSIDERATION, BUT DOES NOT AT THIS TIME BELIEVE USG WARNING AGAINST AIR TRAVEL TO BELFAST IS JUSTIFIED.
PENBERTHY

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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Draft Date: 18 MAY 1973
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
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Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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SECSTATE WASHDC
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